

GENERAL KITCHENER'S DESERT HORDES OF THE KHALIFA.

The Fall of the Sacred City of Omdurman, the Climax of a Unique Campaign.

CITY OF OMDURMAN.
FIRE AND SWORD IN THE SOUDAN.



SLATIN PASHA'S ESCAPE
FROM OMDURMAN



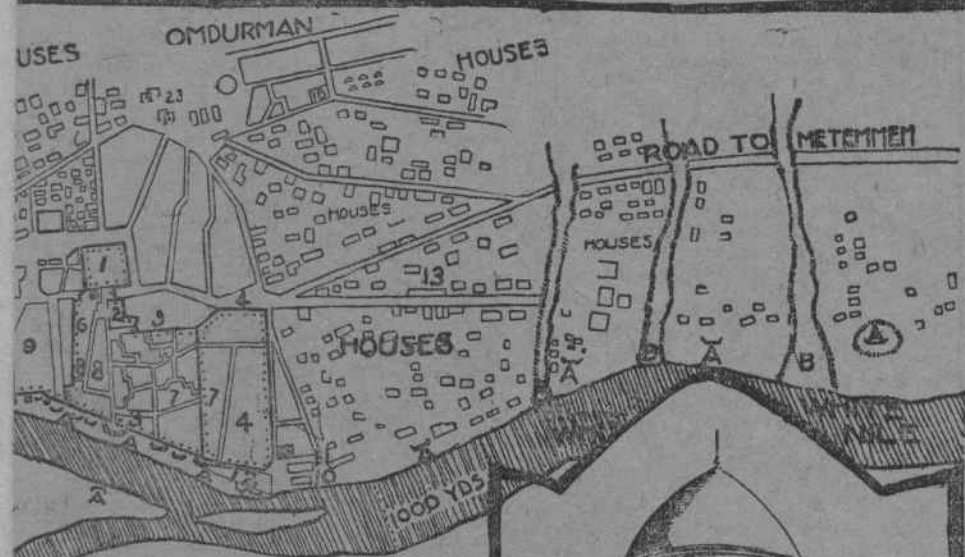
SLATIN PASHA
FROM A PORTRAIT IN
HIS BOOK



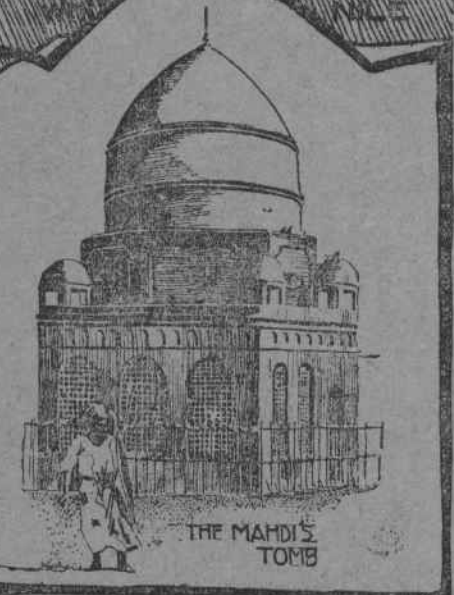
BRINGING GEN. GORDON'S HEAD
TO SLATIN PASHA
FROM SLATIN PASHA'S BOOK



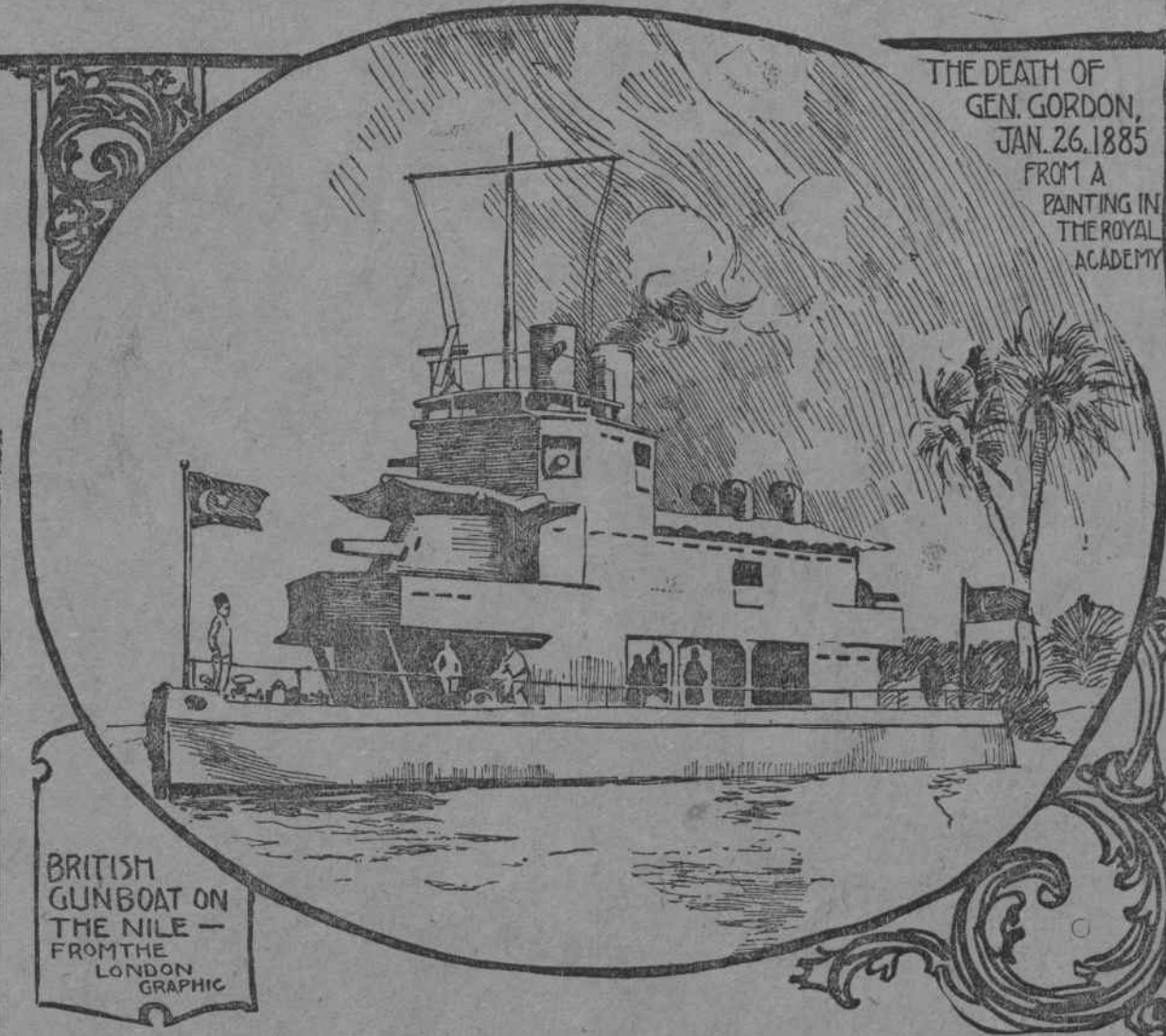
THE DEATH OF
GEN. GORDON,
JAN. 26, 1885
FROM A
PAINTING IN
THE ROYAL
ACADEMY



BRITISH SOLDIERS CROSSING
THE DESERT ON FLAT CARS
IN THE LONDON
GRAPHIC



THE MAHDI'S
TOMB



BRITISH
GUNBOAT ON
THE NILE —
FROM THE
LONDON
GRAPHIC

and it quickly became the metropolis of the upper Nile, with a population of 150,000, and the capital of the Sudan empire in the world. From north to south the new city covers a length of about six English miles. The southern extremity lies almost exactly opposite the southwest end of Khartoum, and it is in no place over three miles in width. At first it consisted of thousands and thousands of straw huts, and the mosque was originally an oblong enclosure surrounded by a mud wall 400 yards long and 500 yards wide; but this has been replaced by one made of burnt brick, and then whitewashed over. After this the Khartoum building brick houses for himself and his brother, then for his relatives, while the Emirs and most of the wealthy people followed his example. In order to show his veneration for the Mahdi, the Khalifa decided to erect a monument to him. A square building was erected some 30 feet high and 30 feet each way, and the stone for this construction, of which the walls were upward of six feet thick, had to be brought all the way from Khartoum. Above this a hexagonal wall fifteen feet high was built, from which rose a dome forty feet high. On the corners of the main building were four smaller domes. This was called Kubbet el Mahdi (Mahdi's dome). It was finished with ten large, arched windows and two doors, and in the hexagonal portion were six skylights. It was white-washed all over and surrounded by a trelliswork fence.

Directly beneath the dome and over the Mahdi's grave a wooden sarcophagus was erected covered with black cloth. Before Slatin left Omdurman much of the whitewash had been knocked off by the weather, which spoiled its general appearance. Above the apex of the dome were three hollow brass balls, one above the other, connected with a lance, the head of which forms the top ornament of the structure. It was said that the Khalifa erected this spire to show that he was perfectly prepared to declare war against the heavens if his wishes were not carried out.

The Mahdi's tomb was sadly damaged by General Kitchener's artillery. The soldiers found the gilt balls an excellent mark. The latest accounts of the Khalifa describe him as becoming during the last three or four months very much thinner and his hair growing gray and bald from the worry and sleepless nights, for which, no doubt, the Sirdar is responsible. He is fifty-seven years old; his full name being Abdullah bin Mohammed Jastab; for he belongs to the Jastab tribe. And the dual "bin" is always turned into an "ab" to form the surname for all members of a tribe. This is a section of the much larger and more powerful cow-keeping tribe of the Baggara, from Southwestern Darfur.

He was the eldest of four sons, and had one sister called Fatma. He and one brother named Yusuf were the most unmanageable, and their father had the greatest difficulty in teaching them by heart the few passages from the Koran necessary for the ordinary prayers. The other two were of quieter disposition, learned their verses and commentaries, and helped their father, who was a teacher of the Koran and a healer of diseases and insanity by means of herbs and religious charms.

The family joined the Furs in combating Zubair's entry into Darfur; and the latter relates how during the fight at Shabke he took Abdullah prisoner, and was about to have him shot, when some of the Ulema craved pardon for him on the grounds of his being weak-headed, which was granted. Abdullah, in gratitude,

(Continued on Page Twenty-seven.)

knowing that the relief expedition was now certain to reach them. "Gordon, of course, had done his utmost to hold the town; he announced that an English army was coming; he had made a paper currency, had distributed decorations and honors almost daily in order to keep up the hearts of the garrison, and, as the position had become more desperate, he had made almost superhuman efforts to induce the troops to hold out. But despair had taken possession of them. What was the use of all these decorations now? What good were all their ranks and honors? And as for the paper money, perhaps there were one or two still hopeful people who would buy a pound note for a couple of piastres on the chance that by some stroke of luck the Government might yet be victorious; but gradually even these slender hopes disappeared. Gordon's promises were no longer credited. "If but one steamer with a few English officers had reached the Nile, the troops and inhabitants would have doubted no longer, and they would have been convinced that Gordon's words were true. English officers would at once have noticed that part of the lines which had been damaged by the overflow of the White Nile and could have ordered its repair. But what could Gordon do single handed and without the assistance of any European officers? It was impossible for him to look to everything, nor had he the means of seeing that his orders were carried out to his

satisfaction. How was it possible for a commander who could not give his troops food to expect these starving men to carry out with precision and energy the instructions he issued?"

After the fall of Khartoum Slatin was treated with great cruelty and indignity. He had embraced the Mohammedan religion and taken the oath of allegiance to the Mahdi, but the Khalifa spat upon him daily to remind him of his infidel origin. He was compelled to run behind the Khalifa's horse when entering the city of Darfur, which he formerly governed.

Khartoum really no longer exists. That once prosperous city was wiped out by the Mahdists. On a neighboring site they built Omdurman. This is the city which the British have just entered. They hold also the ruins of Khartoum.

Shortly after the fall of Khartoum the Mahdi died. He named as his successor the Khalifa Abdullah, one of his four principal generals.

When the Khalifa had been in power less than a year, in 1886, he ordered the inhabitants of Khartoum to leave the city within three days.

On the fourth day the work of destruction began. The houses were pulled down, the carved woodwork and everything of value carried across the river. Soon the town was only left as a home for the desert wolves.

The building material was used in the rearing of the holy city of Omdurman,